

Francis Preston Blair to Andrew Jackson, September 26, 1843, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>FRANCIS P. BLAIR TO JACKSON.

Silver Spring, Near Washington, September 26, 1843.

My Dear General, I received your kind letter a few days ago. It was most acceptable to me because it gave assurance that you had survived the violence of your late attack of colera morbus. The recurrence of your old dysentery which formerly threatened you, but left you in better health than before it attacked you, will I hope act in the same way now, just carry off the acid humors and then leave you in a condition to recover more than your usual strength again. In the fine soft autumn weather of your climate, it would do you much good to take the fresh air on your lawn and in your garden and pastures. I gave Mr. Rives a day or two ago when I was in the city, a walking stick to send to you, that can be turned into a three-legged stool. I hope you will use it. How happy I should be if I lived near you, to support you from place to place. I enjoy your conversation, full always of interest, whether speaking of passing 0255 231 events or of those greater ones that are past, with which you are most familiar, having been a conspicuous actor in many of them.

I regret that Mr. Henshaw has put himself into a false position with his party both in Massachusetts and every other state. He has declared himself opposed to Mr. Van Buren (whom he supported in 1840) and evidently for no other motive than the office acquisition he has made under Mr. Tyler. It was very apparent that they had made pretty much such an arrangement with the mercenary press in New-England, to take part against Mr. V.B. that Bell and White did with that of Tennessee, when brought out against you to assist the game for the Bank, played by White and Harrison. Although I was personally well disposed

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to Mr. Henshaw, who always treated me politely yet I could not see this intrigue of his, with Tyler's measures for the benefit of a third man, and directly as it now appears in the teeth of the great body of the democracy of the north, without exposing it.

The stand I took against the attempt of the Henshaw papers to cry down Mr. Van Buren, I am convinced has had a good effect for the cause in that quarter, and although it has aroused them all to make war upon me, yet I find they have all slackened fire towards Mr. Van Buren. Nay, some of them are already whipt in—the Boston Post for instance, which after being excessively Tylerish, is now by the current of public opinion compelled to draw in its horns and say that it never declared even in favor of Tyler's admission into the convention. This course was taken a day or two before the meeting of the Worcester Convention¹ and was intended to deprecate the vengeance of that body which was then ascertained to be four to one for Van Buren, although its majority had been diminished by the Boston intriguers who had by trick defeated Mr. Bancroft's election from his own ward in the city. They stole a march on his friends who did not attend the meeting and voted him down, and he would not have been in the convention, but that he is ex-officio a member, as chairman of the Central Committee. This opened the eyes of the Massachusetts Democracy, to the machinations the Globe had attempted to expose, and the convention would have read Greene and Henshaw out of the party, but for the timely submission of the Morning Post. But it is not my purpose to prosecute hostilities on these Calhounites in Mr. Tyler's camp any further for the present nor at all, unless I find them making some new movements, dangerous to the unity of the party. As you once said to their chief, the country may now say to the posse lead by Henshaw, "Understanding you now it is not necessary to discuss matters further "

1 Of the Massachusetts Democrats.

My wife (who is by my side in our country home, to which we have retired to escape another attack of bilious fever which pulled us down last fall) sends her dear love to you, hopes you will think of her with your wonted kindness and says she trusts she will

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yet be so happy as to see you in your own hospitable abode with your Sweet daughter (Mrs. Jackson) and all her little ones around you. That you may live to bid 0256 232 her welcome with the good news of the triumph of your cause among the people and of your personal victory in congress is the prayer of yo. mo. devoted friend